

# Plus + + +

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*The following material is reprinted from Issue No. 7 of Plus + + +, a short magazine informing mathematics educators across Canada about important events, research, curriculum development, and items of national interest.*

## **Groupe canadien d'étude en didactique des mathématiques**

La groupe se donne pour buts d'encourager la recherche, de faciliter l'échange d'idées et d'informations, de susciter une réflexion critique sur l'enseignement et sur la théorie et la pratique en didactique des mathématiques. La reunion de 1981 aura lieu à l'Université d'Alberta, du vendredi 5 au mardi 9 juin, 1981. La conférence est ouverte aux didacticiens des mathématiques et aux mathématicien intéressés par l'enseignement et par la formation des maîtres en mathématiques. La conference est bilingue.

Le dernier avis sera envoyé au mois d'avril. Pour en recevoir un exemplaire, veuillez écrire au Dr. Joel Hillel, HB 206, Campus Loyola, Université Concordia, 7141 rue Sherbrooke ouest, Montréal, Québec H4B 1R6.

## **B.C. Association 9th Summer Workshop**

The 9th summer workshop of the B.C. Association of Mathematics Teachers will be held at Cariboo College in Kamloops from August 31 until September 2, 1981. Technical sessions will focus on mathematics education, computers, mathematics, and statistics. The organizers, Derek Chambers and John Siggers, are inviting presentations, suggestions, and registrations. Contact BCAMT Conference Organizers, c/o Cariboo College, P.O. Box 3010, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5N3.

## **A Workshop on Statistics and Probability**

The Joint Committee on the Curriculum in Statistics and Probability of the American Statistical Association and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics organized a workshop at Capilano College, North Vancouver, B.C., on February 20 and 21, 1981. The speakers were Jim McBride of the Response Analysis Corporation, Princeton, Jane Davies, Brian Graham, Norman Kreger of B.C. Telephones, Gail Lenoski of Statistics Canada, Jim Nakamoto, Bob Rennie, Jim Swift, and Alf Waterman. Further information can be supplied by Jim Swift, R.R.3, Site E, Nanaimo, B.C.

## **Algonquin College Grade 12 Level Pilot Examination**

In 1977, the Ontario Association for Mathematical Education recommended a representative mathematics examining board. Subsequently, the Carleton-Ottawa Mathematics Association initiated a project to set up a regional mathematics examining board. On May 24, 1980, F.G.B. Maskell and K.H. Williams, with the co-operation of the Rideau Campus of Algonquin College, Ottawa, administered a test on a voluntary basis to a maximum of 300 students. The candidates were given two hours; those who completed the first section of 100 short questions were encouraged to continue to the seven longer "insight" questions of the second section. It was emphasized the test was not a

contest and that nothing hinged upon it. Its purpose was diagnostic, and each candidate was to receive a report listing his areas of weakness. In a sample of 126, 20 displayed mastery and insight, 49 had at least some competence, while the remainder showed evidence of basic weakness.

Enquiries may be directed to F.G.B. Maskell, Mathematics Department, Algonquin College, 200 Lees Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0C5.

### **Ontario Assessment Instrument Pool**

Dr. H.K. Fisher, Ontario Deputy Minister of Education, announced the development of the Ontario Assessment Instrument Pool to provide a resource of assessment materials and techniques in both English and French. The ministry has not prescribed its use for any particular purpose. It involves a variety of school subjects. The first instalment of the Mathematics Pool, for Grades 7 to 10, has already been sent to school boards. Mathematics, Grades 4 to 6, will follow in 1981/82. The first issue of the *Ontario Assessment Newsletter*, just published at OISE, describes the program of field and screening trials. Further newsletters were scheduled for April 15 and September 30, 1981. Direct enquiries to Dr. Les McLean, Head, Education Evaluation Centre, Ontario

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### **Special Education**

Regularly, the *Ontario Mathematics Gazette*, the journal of the Ontario Association for Mathematics Education, uses a number to focus on a particular issue. For example, the December 1980 number ran several articles on calculators. However, the theme of the previous (September) issue is a little more unusual - special education. Douglas Crawford comments on recent assessment studies in U.S.A., Canada, and England. "Crossing the chasm from the clinic to the classroom," a presentation made by Ralph Connelly at a conference on diagnostic and prescriptive mathematics held recently in Vancouver, is summarized here. The Faculty of Education at the University of Western Ontario is housing CHILD (Centre for Helping Individuals with Learning Disabilities), sponsored by a local chapter of the Ontario Association for Children with Learning Disabilities; Joan Simons, Merrill Sitko, and Dan Bachor [phone (519) 679-6023] report on it. Another article deals with a study of special education in the Borough of York. The editor of the *Gazette* is Professor R.S. Smith, Faculty of Education, U.W.O., c/o Althouse College of Education, 1137 Western Road, London, Ontario N6G 1G7.